

REMARKS

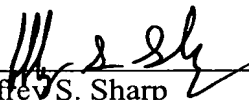
Please enter the preliminary amendment presented above in which reference numerals were deleted and various other formal changes were made. Improper multiple dependencies have been removed. The limitation of claim 11 has been incorporated into claim 1 reciting that the medical instrument is an atomic force microscope and claims 9 and 11 have been cancelled. The optional features of original claim 3 have been moved to two new dependent claims 17 and 18 and the optional feature of claim 14 has been incorporated into new claim 20. A minor clarification has been made in claim 4 to make it consistent with amended claim 3. New claim 19 is added which is supported by the disclosure at Page 8, lines 6-13 and elsewhere. New claim 21 is supported throughout the disclosure.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions of form or substance, he or she is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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